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Campus stops short of barring CIA

By Richard Colvin
Staff writer

HAYWARD — A California State University, Hayward, student government group has backed down from a resolution that would have barred the Central Intelligence Agency from campus recruiting.

Instead, the Associated Students council voted 8-3 with two abstentions Thursday to condemn the CIA's "political disruption of popular governments, and assassinations of democratically elected leaders" and other covert activities.

The watered-down resolution urges students to boycott CIA recruiters while asserting that "students ... have the right to make their own career decisions."

The CIA has recruited on campus for at least the last decade, according to university spokesman Darrell Gray, who said the agency participated in a "career da" last October and routinely recruits

candidates through the placement office.

Council member Michael Gallagher, who spoke in favor of banning the CIA on behalf of the Progressive Campus Peace Coalition, called the condemnation "a very good step in the right direction."

But, he said, "there is a fever of amorality rampant on college campuses which says, 'I'd work at the CIA if it was the only job I could get.'"

"People have to decide in their conscience if any job is OK or if a job is a moral choice the same as anything else."

The resolution will be presented to representatives of a state and national student lobbying group for possible adoption.

The CIA-recruiting ban was tabled a week ago after a vocal group of students protested. At Thursday's meeting, students presented a petition they said carried 440 signatures claiming the banning of the CIA would infringe on "the right of individuals to make a conscious choice to

speak and/or interview with the firm or organization of their desire."

Chris Marston, president of the student council in the School of Business and Economics, said most business students were opposed to the CIA on moral grounds but were also opposed to restrictions on recruiting.

"We get trained in the school of business pretty much in free enterprise and freedom from regulation," Marston said. "I think our students are capable of making their own decisions about whether or not to seek a job with the CIA."

He voted in favor of the weaker resolution.

A student who spoke against the resolution said, "If we say the CIA can't come here because we don't like what they do, then are we going to say we don't want the advertising industry because of the slime they put out?"

But, a student who identified herself as "another veteran of the '60s" asked, "Would the Irish Republican Army or the Palestine Liberation Organization ... be allowed to openly recruit soldiers to overthrow governments?"

A student who noted a campus trend away from "stands on issues and toward an interest in money" said passing the anti-CIA resolution would help reverse that trend.

Gallagher read letters urging passage of the anti-CIA resolution from U.S. Rep. Ron Dellums, D-Berkeley; John George, chairman of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors; and John Fuhrig, former Libertarian Party candidate for U.S. Senate.

Kent Lee, a student whose family fled from mainland China, said, "Changes in the world have to start somewhere, and this is a good place to start. It means we as human beings are capable of love, compassion and honesty."